

Message Text

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44

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 EB-07 CIEP-01 TRSE-00 STR-04 OMB-01

CEA-01 /084 W

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P R 121540Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7013

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L GABORONE 1235

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ECIN, BC, KE, MZ, RH, SA, TZ, ZA

SUBJECT: RESCHEDULED PRESIDENT'S LUSAKA MEETING

REF: A. GABORONE 1208

B. LUSAKA 1714

C. NAIROBI 7771

D. LUSAKA 1732

1. DURING CONVERSATION SEPTEMBER 12, SECRETARY FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS CHARLES TIBONE GAVE CHARGE SOMEWHAT PESSIMISTIC APPRECIATION OF CURRENT SITUATION IN RHODESIA. TIBONE SAID THE FOUR PRESIDENTS WOULD MEET TOMORROW (SEPTEMBER 13) IN LUSAKA TO REVIEW THE RHODESIA SITUATION, BUT AS FAR AS HE KNEW, THERE IS NO PROPOSED COURSE OF ACTION PUT FORWARD IN ADVANCE FOR CONSIDERATION. AT LEAST PRESIDENT KHAMA AND LIKELY PRESIDENT KAUNDA ARE WARY OF
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ATTEMPTING TO IMPOSE A SOLUTION ON THE DISRUPTED ANC LEADERSHIP

IN SPITE OF THE DANGER IN THE CURRENT SITUATION, ACCORDING TO TIBONE.

2. TIBONE CONFIRMED THAT THE MEETING LAST WEEK WAS POSTPONED PRIMARILY BECAUSE OF THE UNEXPECTED WEDDING OF SAMORA MACHEL IN LOURENCO MARQUES. ACCORDING TO TIBONE, MACHEL INSISTED ON NYERERE'S STAYING FOR THE WEDDING, AND KAUNDA WAS CONSTRAINED TO SENT A DELEGATION INCLUDING HIS WIFE. BOTSWANA ON THE OTHER HAND SENT NO DELEGATION TO THE WEDDING. CONTRARY TO REPORTS IN THE NAIRIOBI PRESS (REF C), THERE HAD BEEN NO INTENTION TO DISCUSS A POSSIBLE ECONOMIC UNION OR ASSOCIATION AMONG THE COUNTRIES OF TANZANIA, ZAMBIA, MOZANBIQUE AND BOTSWANA. TIBONE REFERRED TO THE DIFFERENCES IN ECONOMIC SYSTEMS AMONG THE FOUR COUNTRIES AND SAID THAT IN SPITE OF THEIR CLOSE POLITICAL RELATIONSHIP AND THE PERSONAL FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN KHAMA AND NYERERE, HE PERSONALLY FELT THAT IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR THE FOUR COUNTRIES TO FORM AN ECONOMIC UNION.

3. COMMENT: TIBONE WAS GENUINELY DISCOURAGED BY DEVELOPMENTS IN RHODESIAN SITUATION. DURING DISCUSSION OF SEPTEMBER 13 PRESIDENTS' MEETING PARA 1, HE MENTIONED THAT THE MOST HOPEFUL DEVELOPMENT IN RHODESAIN SITUATION WOULD BE SOME MOVEMENT BY SMITH TO ALLOW ANC TO DETERMINE MEMEBERSHIP OF ITS SIDE IN FUTURE DISCUSSIONS EITHER BY AGREEING TO GO BACK TO AN "INTERNATION-ALIZED" HZONE AT VISTORIA FALLS OR BY GIVING SOME FORM OF IMMUNITY TO SITHOLE AND OTHERS DESIGNATED TO ATEND A MEETING ELSEHWERE IN RHODESIA. OTHERWISE, HE SEES NO AVENUES FOR POSITIVE EFFORTS TO SOLVE THE RHODESIAN PROBLEM AT THE MOMENT.

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